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The Dynamic Early Years of Delacorte Press
Story Behind the Book: 'Capote' • The Independent Dealer Network
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Publishers Weekly

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HIGHLIGHTS

Late Bulletin

Bass Bids for Macmillan

The Texas investor Robert Bass has offered $64 a share, or $1.5 billion, to acquire the independent publisher. Bass, who owns 9.1% of the company, said his bid was "intended to be consensual and is conditioned upon the approval of the board of directors."

House Votes to Join Berne

The House of Representatives has given unanimous approval for the United States to adhere to the Berne Copyright Convention—a fact that is seen as a major boost for development of a compromise with the Senate, where some opposition is expected based on objections from the Register of Copyrights. *Page 10*

Soaring Advances: Book People Speak

The recent $10 million-plus deal with Mary Higgins Clark for four books has touched off a new round of soul-searching among publishers. Is too much being paid to too few authors—and with what ultimate consequences? A number of leading publishers and agents give their views. *Page 12*

Battle for Control of Mondadori

An Italian financier, Carlo De Benedetti, has taken control of the giant Mondadori book and press group, Italy's largest, after a bitter board meeting that pitted two rival family units against each other and ended in the ousting of minority shareholder Leonardo Mondadori, publisher of the book division. *Page 10*

AAP Sales Report for March

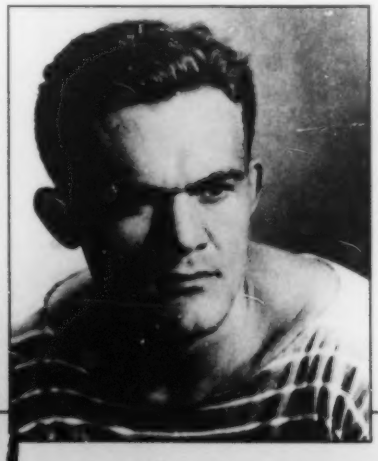
Category	% change, March	% change, YTD
Adult hardcover	24.1	4.6
Adult paperback	36.1	18.4
Juvenile hardcover	11.8	17.1
Juvenile paperback	45.8	38.9
Univ. Pr. hardcover	34.5	18.3
Univ. Pr. paperback	38.7	17.7
Bibles, etc.	17.6	15.3
Mass market paperback	2.1	6.9
Book club	6.6	0.7
Mail order	15.6	-0.7
Sci-tech	8.1	9.9
College texts	-10.1	2.5
School texts	4.0	6.2

Capote Biographer Tells All

Gerald Clarke, author of a major new biography of Truman Capote, just published by Simon & Schuster, describes the problems and rewards of dealing with a subject who would often interrupt him in his work. *Page 23*

Call to Nurture the Independents

Edward Morrow, president-elect of the American Booksellers Association, calls on publishers to develop a coherent strategy of support for a core group of 300 or so independent booksellers who are key to the success of a huge range of books in the marketplace. *Page 28*



***Late bestselling novelists** Irwin Shaw (l.) and James Jones were a great deal younger when, early in the 1960s, the fledgling Delacorte Press lured them away from their former publishers. For a story on the house's early days, see page 19*